than 1.2, and a hardness of at least 85 on JIS C (Shore C) scale, the specific gravity of said intermediate layer being lower than the specific gravity of said center core; and said cover having a thickness of 1 to <u>2.54</u> [3] mm (0.03937 to <u>0.10</u> [0.1182] inches) and being softer than said intermediate layer.

3. (Twice Amended) The golf ball of claim 1 wherein [said center core has a hardness of 45 to 80 on JIS C (Shore C) scale and] said cover has a hardness of 50 to <u>81</u> [85] on JIS C (Shore C) scale.

8. (Twice Amended) The golf ball of claim 1 wherein the hardness of said intermediate layer is in the range of <u>90</u> [85]-100 on JIS C (Shore C) scale.

REMARKS

In the Action mailed March 13, 2000, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112 for containing subject matter allegedly not supported by the specification. Claims 1 and 4 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that recited by claim 1 of U.S. application Serial No. 08/926,194 and claims 1 and 4 of U.S. application Serial No. 08/926,246. Claims 3 and 5-8 were provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims of Application Nos. 08/926,872 and 08/926,246.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, i.e., claims 1 and 3-8, are in condition for allowance.

A. Rejection Under §112 has been Overcome

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly not being supported by the specification. The Examiner listed various terms from the claims that allegedly lack support.

The proper test for claim support under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is whether the disclosure as originally filed reasonably conveys to one skilled in the art that the inventor had possession of the claimed subject matter rather than the presence or absence of literal support. *Ralston Purina Co. v. Farr-Mar-Co., Inc.* 772 F.2d 1570 (Fed. Cir. 1985). If the *essence* of the original